(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Declining academic standards at Vishva-Bharati University

1463. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that academic excellence of the Vishva-Bharati University at Shantiniketan is on the decline;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Vishva-Bharati University is infested with a host of vested interests which are proving a drag on its growth and attainment of high standards; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take or are taking to rejuvenate this prestigious institution of learning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) The special programmes of studies and research offered by the Vishva-Bharati University specially by Kala Bhavana and Sangeet Bhavan, continue to attract talented students from all parts of the country and abroad.

Government are not aware about the influence of vested interests proving a drag on the growth and attainment of high standards in Visva-Bharati.

(c) The steps being taken to preserve and enrich the character of the University and to maintain a high level of excellence include:

(i) Attracting meritorious students from different parts of the country and abroad;

(ii) Organisation of a larger number of national and international seminars, conferences and workshops;

(iii) Strengthening of co-curricular activities including cultural functions, community activities, closer relationship and interaction with surrounding areas, etc.;

(iv) Strengthening the Sangeet Bhavana, Kala Bhavana, Rabindra Bhavana, Palli Shiksha Bhavana, Palli Sangathan Vibhaga, etc. and introduction of new programmes in them.

I.I.T. in Assam

1464. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1174 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th August, 1987 and state:

(a) by when Indian Institute of Technology is likely to become operational in Assam; and

(b) what are the various courses of study which this Institute is going to offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) A project team of experts has been constituted and a full-time Project Director appointed to prepare a Detailed Project Report for the proposed Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) to be set up in Assam. It is premature at this stage to indicate precisely when the IIT will become operational and what courses it will offer.

Discovery of Inscriptions on Narsingha Temple of Puri in Orissa

1465. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN